

Mary Lou Terrien

From: Joanne Pohl <jpohl@samaritas.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2016 9:10 AM
To: Mary Lou Terrien
Cc: Rep. Lee Chatfield (District 107); Rep. Amanda Price; Rep. David Maturen (District 63); Rep. Jim Runestad (District 44); Rep. Jason Sheppard (District 56); Rep. Lana Theis (District 42); Rep. Hank Vaupel (District 47)
Subject: HCR 28

Hello,

My name is JoAnne Pohl and I work in Battle Creek resettling refugees in our local community. It is my understanding that the committee on local government is planning on voting on HCR 28 either today in committee or on December 7th. This resolution urges a halt to all refugee resettlement until alleged failures to comply with Refugee Act of 1980 are somehow resolved. However, no court or other competent authority has ever found that the Office of Refugee Resettlement or any other actors in the resettlement process in Michigan are in violation of the security or local consultation provisions of the Refugee Act of 1980. There is no indication in the resolution of who or what entity might ever make an acceptable finding of compliance that could allow refugee resettlement to continue.

In fact, in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services State Refugee Coordinator<[The resolution is concerning because it communicates false and misleading accusations of malfeasance and threat. I value the economic, social, and cultural contributions of refugees to my community and I urge you to support refugee resettlement. This resolution represents an unfounded fear of a vulnerable group of people. Please do not give in to the hate and fear rhetoric this election season has brought. We as Americans and Michiganders are better than this. We are welcoming and we are a vibrant community with American citizens, immigrants, and refugees.](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001OI_MUiTBagAzWj2ELUIpWiwoaCrn6vd1Fd3TYI8VCnc0M2X4IXCpblUd8zM8nsQQYc92OiFa2n8okZ6117Hh9yiYvDGx6Z9Q5Vhooyq_ZnpCDVur2Qg3IsASeNwg-3IK2BEYx5aOSpzeYSIFaDDy0wF2Taiyf7SmlCh3OCzu8Mke6BciBH3jDrBU3RgOrElowbwdyfxo=&c=yRD-EjQYAR5TpD-sUiF7ZWwRQHYQZYXz9dW09Z8nhmHoYJ-2pZ4BPew==&ch=ByrLrY1tj_6ugQMDp41TeUm06-dSFBwm7LY_gnOd0-uvO-P24VDog==> It is by far the most rigorous form of screening applied to any group of people seeking admission into the United States. It can take as long as 2 years (sometimes even longer) and goes through several federal agencies , including the CIA, FBI, and the Department of Homeland Security.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

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Thank you,

JoAnne Pohl
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